

**METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR MERGING TOPICALLY
RELATED E-MAIL IN A COLLABORATIVE WORK ENVIRONMENT**

ABSTRACT

A mechanism is presented for merging e-mail messages into a collated file.
5 An e-mail message and its associated responses may be accessed and collated based
on a selected pattern for responses. The set of e-mails may be collated into a single
document with the responses associated with the particular message to which the
response is directed. Using pattern matching operations in an iterative fashion, a
response may be associated with the message that elicited the response whether the
10 original message or a previous response. The form of association may be user
selectable.

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